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This third supplement to the study "Who Goes to College" is concerned with the high school rankings of new freshmen enrolled in Wisconsin public and private colleges in 1958 and 1959.

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"WHO GOES TO COLLEGE - RANK IN CLASS"
(Third Supplement to Background Study IV)

The first two supplements of Background Study IV, "Who Goes to College," were concerned with the high school rankings of new freshmen enrolled in 1956 at Wisconsin colleges, public and private. This report is concerned with new freshmen of 1958 and 1959.

A questionnaire was sent to all of the Wisconsin colleges, public and private, four-year and two-year. Replies were received from the nine Wisconsin state colleges, the University, its branches and extension centers, eighteen county teachers' colleges, and twenty-three privately-supported institutions. On the basis of these replies a number of tables were constructed. A description of the tables as well as the tables themselves follow.

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The entries in each of the three tables which follow should be interpreted as:

a. Those entries which fall into the categories of percentile ranks; e. g., 90-99, 70-74, 0-9, are cumulative percentages. That is, in Table I 79.4% of the new freshmen enrolled in private schools rank in the upper half (50%) of their graduating class.

b. Those entries which fall into the categories of mean rank, 25th percentile, median, 75th percentile, are characteristics of the new freshmen. That is, the average rank (mean rank) of the new freshmen enrolled in public institutions is 66. Further, in order to be considered as a member of the better half of the total new freshmen class, an enrollee must have a ranking of 71% or better in his high school graduating class.

c. Those entries which follow the categories, "% men," "% women," are characteristics of the sex of the new freshmen. That is, 42.9% of the new freshmen enrolled in private schools were men.

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Table I - Distribution of New Freshmen by High School Rank by Type of Support.

This table summarizes the replies of the twenty-three private colleges and the thirty publicly-supported colleges. It can be observed that better than 75% of all the college freshmen rank in the upper half of their high school graduating class. Further, about 45% of all college freshmen rank in the upper quarter of their graduating class. It is not surprising that the private colleges have a new clientele whose high school rank is superior to the new students of the public college. Supplement II of this series proposed that a major factor for the difference between the two types of institutions is the percentage of women enrolled. Women who continue their education generally have a higher high school rank than their male counterparts. Certainly, the evidence of Table I would appear to support this proposed explanation.

Table II - Distribution of New Freshmen by High School Rank by Institution.

This table presents the distribution of students for each individual institution, excepting the extension centers which have been grouped as one institution and the county teachers' colleges which have been similarly grouped. Because the institutions have been promised anonymity, the schools have been designated by Roman numerals.

Table III - Distribution of New Freshmen by High School Rank by Type of Support by Year of Enrollment

This table combines Table I of this report with a similar table of the second supplement. In general, the colleges enrolled higher ranking freshmen in 1958-59 than in 1956. Both the public and private institutions show an improvement in 1958-59 over 1956. The improvement has occurred below the median. That is, the percent of new freshmen who rank in the lower half of their graduating class has remained nearly the same, but the distribution in the lower half has

shifted toward the median (see improvement in mean rank for public schools from 65 to 66 while median remained constant). It is also interesting to note that the proportion of women at private schools has increased from 47.1% to 57.1%. An increase is also evident in the public institutions; however, the shift is not as marked. It will be interesting to see whether this trend will continue. Such information will be reported in the next supplement.

TABLE I

DISTRIBUTION OF NEW FRESHMEN BY HIGH SCHOOL RANK
1958-59

Rank	Private	Public	Total
90-99	24.3*	19.2	20.6
80-89	42.2	35.4	37.3
75-79	49.6	42.7	44.6
70-74	56.3	49.6	51.4
60-69	69.3	62.8	64.6
50-59	79.4	74.5	75.8
40-49	87.1	83.7	84.6
30-39	92.7	90.4	91.1
25-29	94.4	93.4	93.7
20-24	96.2	95.6	95.8
10-19	98.8	98.7	98.7
0-9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean Rank	69.5	66.0	67.0
25th Percentile	54	50	50
Median	74	69	71
75th Percentile	89	86	87
% Men	42.9	59.1	54.6
% Women	57.1	40.9	45.4

*Per cent who ranked at least as high as the beginning of the indicated interval.

TABLE II
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW FRESHMEN BY HIGH SCHOOL RANK
1958-59

High School Rank	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII
90-99	25.5*	17.2	14.9	25.9	23.3	16.5	24.8	12.0	20.0	28.6	25.0	38.5	4.0	16.7	35.0	7.9	14.5
80-89	48.6	33.8	25.6	48.9	42.7	29.6	39.7	21.6	29.0	49.0	56.2	61.6	16.0	31.9	50.2	21.0	30.0
75-79	54.4	40.9	32.0	54.2	49.5	34.1	47.9	25.8	36.0	56.8	62.4	68.9	19.0	39.3	63.5	34.7	36.9
70-74	62.6	47.7	35.2	59.5	55.3	39.9	58.4	27.6	42.0	63.4	74.5	75.5	23.0	46.5	70.9	50.5	43.7
60-69	77.5	62.1	45.8	75.5	67.9	52.7	71.9	43.6	56.0	75.0	93.3	88.1	34.0	59.5	85.7	89.5	58.1
50-59	87.2	72.4	56.4	87.0	78.7	64.7	81.0	59.1	68.0	85.1	100.0	93.6	45.0	71.6	90.6	100.0	69.7
40-49	93.5	78.9	68.1	92.3	85.5	76.8	90.0	77.5	81.0	92.3	--	97.0	61.0	80.5	95.6	--	79.5
30-39	97.3	87.5	74.5	96.9	91.4	88.8	95.3	92.4	89.0	94.9	--	98.0	67.0	87.5	98.6	--	86.3
25-29	97.8	91.0	76.6	97.7	95.3	92.3	96.1	94.2	92.0	96.3	--	98.3	68.0	90.7	98.9	--	89.1
20-24	99.2	95.1	85.1	99.2	97.7	95.8	96.1	100.0	95.0	97.8	--	98.3	75.0	93.6	99.5	--	92.0
10-19	100.0	99.1	93.6	100.0	100.0	99.1	98.4	--	97.0	99.4	--	98.9	87.0	97.9	100.0	--	97.7
0-19	--	100.0	100.0	--	--	100.0	100.0	--	100.0	100.0	--	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	--	100.0
Mean Rank	73.0	64.0	54.5	73.0	69.0	61.0	70.5	57.5	63.5	73.0	79.0	80.0	47.0	63.0	76.5	71.5	62.0
25th Percentile	61	41	28	60	54	41	56	41	46	60	70	70	21	46	64	65	45
Median	78	68	55	78	74	62	74	54	69	79	82	84	47	67	80	70	66
75th Percentile	90	86	80	90	89	84	89	75	85	91	90	94	69	84	92	78	84
% Men	0.0	59.0	68.6	0.0	0.0	53.6	0.0	100.0	100.0	56.3	100.0	45.4	75.0	64.5	41.1	100.0	84.8
% Women	100.0	41.0	31.4	100.0	100.0	46.4	100.0	0.0	0.0	43.7	0.0	54.6	25.0	35.5	58.9	0.0	15.2

*Per cent who ranked at least as high as the beginning of the indicated interval.

TABLE II (cont'd.)
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW FRESHMEN BY HIGH SCHOOL RANK
1958-59

High School Rank	XVIII	XIX	XX	XXI	XXII	XXIII	XXIV	XXV	XXVI	XXVII	XXVIII	XXIX	XXX	XXXI	XXXII	XXXIII	XXXIV
90-99	17.3	12.3	19.1	15.5	38.6	16.5	24.2	16.4	30.2	12.9	18.8	17.1	22.4	22.7	16.7	26.2	9.9
80-89	35.6	24.9	30.5	29.8	70.1	29.4	42.8	32.1	51.9	25.8	34.4	30.5	44.8	41.3	27.9	50.0	22.9
75-79	42.5	31.8	35.3	36.6	79.4	37.9	51.2	38.8	56.4	32.8	40.7	36.4	50.8	48.4	35.0	52.4	31.3
70-74	50.9	42.4	41.0	43.7	81.3	45.2	58.7	45.9	62.5	39.6	50.0	41.0	53.8	54.2	41.4	57.2	39.7
60-69	61.2	58.7	59.1	58.4	88.8	58.8	71.0	57.8	72.3	56.7	62.6	52.6	59.8	65.9	54.5	62.0	56.5
50-59	69.6	73.3	71.5	70.2	96.3	71.5	81.9	68.0	81.7	70.1	78.2	66.9	74.8	75.4	65.7	66.8	72.7
40-49	83.4	81.3	78.2	83.0	96.3	83.7	88.8	79.3	89.8	78.2	84.4	78.5	80.8	84.6	74.1	76.4	85.6
30-39	92.7	89.0	83.0	91.5	96.3	91.1	93.9	86.4	96.8	86.7	93.8	88.5	85.3	92.3	83.7	83.6	91.7
25-29	94.7	92.2	85.9	95.3	96.3	95.3	95.6	91.1	98.4	90.0	93.8	94.7	86.8	95.5	87.7	86.0	94.3
20-24	97.2	95.1	88.8	97.2	100.0	96.5	96.8	94.1	98.8	93.5	100.0	95.9	92.8	96.7	89.3	86.0	96.7
10-19	99.7	98.8	98.3	99.2	--	98.8	99.1	98.2	100.0	97.9	--	98.1	95.8	99.5	94.9	100.0	98.9
0-19	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	100.0	--	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	--	100.0
Mean Rank	64.0	62.0	54.5	63.0	81.5	64.0	70.5	63.0	73.0	61.0	55.5	61.0	65.5	68.0	59.0	65.0	62.0
25th Percentile	46.0	47	42	45	77	42	55	44	55	43	52	42	49	50	38	41	48
Median	70.0	65	66	66	85	66	75	67	81	64	70	61	75	73	63	80	64
75th Percentile	85.0	80	86	83	92	83	89	85	91	81	84	85	88	89	82	90	78
% Men	67.5	76.5	65.7	55.3	0.0	68.5	39.3	48.7	49.4	70.2	0.0	51.4	26.9	49.0	82.5	0.0	26.5
% Women	32.5	23.5	34.3	44.7	100.0	31.5	60.7	51.3	50.6	29.8	100.0	48.6	73.1	51.0	17.5	100.0	73.5

TABLE III

DISTRIBUTION OF NEW FRESHMEN BY HIGH SCHOOL RANK
1956 and 1958-59

	Private		Public		Total	
Rank	1956	1958-9	1956	1958-9	1956	1958-9
90-99	23.3*	24.3	19.4	19.2	20.7	20.6
80-89	41.1	42.2	35.5	35.4	37.4	37.3
75-79	48.5	49.6	42.3	42.7	44.4	44.6
70-74	55.8	56.3	49.2	49.6	51.4	51.4
60-69	67.5	69.3	60.8	62.8	63.0	64.6
50-59	77.7	79.4	71.8	74.5	73.8	75.8
40-49	85.4	87.1	80.9	83.7	82.4	84.6
30-39	91.2	92.7	88.0	90.4	89.1	91.1
25-29	93.4	94.4	91.4	93.4	92.1	93.7
20-24	95.2	96.2	94.0	95.6	94.4	95.8
10-19	98.1	98.8	98.0	98.7	98.0	98.7
0-9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean Rank	69.0	69.5	65.0	66.0	66.0	67.0
25th Percentile	52	54	46.0	50	48	50
Median	74	74	69.0	69	70	71
75th Percentile	89	89	86.0	86	87	87
% Men	52.9	42.9	62.1	59.1	59.0	54.6
% Women	47.1	57.1	37.9	40.9	41.0	45.4

*Per cent who ranked at least as high as the beginning of the indicated interval.